GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3096
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNALS .
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Debt Recovery Tribunals and DRATs at present functioning in the country;

(b) the total number of cases filed in these tribunals during the last three years and disposed of by the tribunals;

(c) the number of cases pending at present in these tribunals as on July 31, 2001;

(d): whether these DRTs are sufficient to settle increasing number of cases being filed in every tribunal;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to set up some more DRTs in the country for speedy disposal of case and recovery of NPAs;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;
(g) whether settlement of cases by DRTs is time consuming and costly;
(h) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve some alternative channel of justice, which are cost effective and less time consuming; and
(i) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a): At present 22 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), 5 in the State of Maharashtra, 2 each in the States of Tamilnadu, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi and one each in the States of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerla, Orissa and UT of Chandigarh and 5 Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs), one each in the States of Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi are functioning.

(b): The total number of cases filed in these Tribunals during the last three years and disposed of by the Tribunals in these years is as given below:

Year ending 31st March	No.of cases Filed (Progressive)	No. of cases disposed of (Progressive)
1998-99	27333	5937
1999-2000	37889	9825
2000-2001	47667	14462

(c): As reported by DRTs, about 35907 cases were pending in these Tribunals as on 31st July, 2001.

(d), (e) & (f): To implement the provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act) initially 10 DRTs and one DRAT were set up in the country. Keeping in view the workload on each DRT Governmentdecided to set up more DRTs. At present 22 DRTs and 5 DRATs are functioning in the country. To make the DRTs more effective, Government have decided to set up 7 more DRTs, one each at Delhi, Calcutta, Vishakhapatanam, Coimbatore, Lucknow, Ranchi and Pune.

(g), (h) and (i): Under Sub-section 24 of Section 19 of the Act, the application made to the tribunal is dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour is made by it to dispose of the application finally within six months from the date of receipt of the application. The rate of disposal of cases is not to the desired level on account of certain Court cases filed in various High Courts

including the one filed in the Delhi High Court in which the Hon`ble High Court had declared the DRT Act as unconstitutional and void. DRTs are at present working under a stay order granted by the Supreme Court against the order of the Delhi High Court. To make the DRTs more effective, Government have taken various steps such as amending the DRT Act, raising the number of posts per DRT, increasing the area of office accommodation, delegating additional administrative and financial powers to Presiding Officers and making the DRTs and their officers and staff eligible for office/residential accommodation from general pool maintained by the Central Government at various places.